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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: January 26, 1979

SUBJECT : Military Politics and Human Rights

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Oscar Cardozo, Political Reporter,
Clarín Newspaper
Mr. F. Allen Harris, Political Officer,
American Embassy, Buenos Aires

COPIES TO : ARA/ECA - Mr. Brayshaw AMB
HA/HR - Mr. Flood DCM
INR/RAR - Mr. Buchanan POL
ARA - Mr. Lister POL/R
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' ORPA/LAD - Mr. Gresham ECOM
DAO
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SY

Human Rights Situation

Mr. Cardozo observed that although the human rights situation was improving quantitatively, it was worsening qualitatively. He mentioned that he, as a former Peronist and as a political reporter, was becoming increasingly concerned about his personal safety in Argentina. He opined that two or three years ago his name would not be on any operating group's list. These groups were targeting individuals involved with terrorists or active political subversives. The situation has now changed and the persons being "sucked up" (chupado) by the anti-subversive operations are increasingly leftists and intellectuals who hold or have held ideas contrary to those of the government. Cardozo cited the morning's news of the disappearance of Hector Abrales, a Peronist intellectual, successful engineer and prominent businessman.

COMMENT: Cardozo's concern, as well as his quantity and quality comment are of interest. As anti-subversive operations begin to target softer ideological targets, especially those who are well-known leftist "intellectuals" and professionals, the operations begin to worry a greater

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XDS-4 1/26/99 (CHAPLIN, Maxwell) OR-M

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Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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percentage of Argentina's professional class, who begin to see themselves as possible targets of the anti-subversive campaign. Recently, an Army intelligence officer informed the Embassy that the 601 Intelligence Battalion had just taken over another floor at its Buenos Aires headquarters to expand "intelligence activities" on "communist and socialist targets"

Peronist Ideology

NR

CLEARANCES:
DCM: MChaplin
POLCOUNS: WHHallman

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